



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

April 27, 2001

CITY OF COOS BAY

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LOCAL GOVERNMENTS MEET WITH TELCOM PROVIDERS AT COLLEGE -- Local college, school district and city and county officials met this morning with Guy Alvis from the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department, and also with regional telcom and cable providers. The meeting was designed to provide an opportunity to debrief about all the various telecommunications efforts underway that affect the Bay Area and Southwest Oregon.

Mr. Alvis started the meeting off with an update about SB 622. He explained that five major fiber rings have been approved around state. None touch the Bay Area directly but should provide indirect benefit. Contracts are being negotiated with applicant communities to move forward. The project will entail very little new construction by QWEST, which is undertaking the work. Most involves leasing existing fiber lines to form the 5 rings. About \$68.5 million in SB 622 funds are available for the projects. Alvis said to assume there will be a fiber ring going through Florence within the next few years. A spur line to Coos Bay has not been funded by SB 622 as these funds have been limited to QWEST's existing territory.

Continuing, Alvis said SB 622 has proven to be a good vehicle to get QWEST to upgrade its own system but has done little to get Verizon and other telcom providers to do likewise. Verizon suggested today that SB 622 may actually be working to discourage QWEST from negotiating in truly good faith with Verizon to produce route-redundancy by forging a shared-system network for both companies. This, of course, would be an unintended consequence of the legislation. Alvis noted that efforts underway by Verizon, Charter, Fiber South and potentially CEDCO can all help improve the area's connectivity to the outside world. He noted that cellular systems are also coming on as a strong player.

Fiber South Vice-chair Don Spangler provided an update on the FS efforts, saying that FS is very close to an agreement with PCI-NW that will provide a complete ring for the Bay Area, connecting the Bay Area to the Willamette Valley and points beyond within 24 months from start-up. The project will include a 1-gigabyte Ethernet system for the FS communities.

CEDCO's Brady Scott indicated that CEDCO is building a relationship with NOANET that would have a communication system based on use of BPA fiber -- if this can come together. They are looking at a one year time frame.

Verizon summarized its efforts to extend fiber south from Coos Bay into Curry County, much of which will be available by this summer.

Charter's Linda Kimberly described their plans to make a major upgrade by the end of the year that will provide cable modems and several advanced systems, starting in the Bay Area and Crescent City, California -- eventually connecting the entire coast and the rest of the state and including telephone. At the outset, Charter is targeting 2 years for the first major phase of its project. Ms. Kimberly said Charter "is spending billions

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just in Oregon alone" to complete company owner Paul Allen's vision for a "connected world." Kimberly added that Charter's rates for cable communications are and can be expected to be more or less standard across the country. The company plans to offer bundled services to each home. This means one line per house (and one bill) providing multiple services -- television, communications, etal.

Alvis said SOEN -- the State's network -- is also negotiating with local internet service providers for marketing its services here.

This all means progress for the Bay Area when it comes to telecommunications ... FINALLY!

CITY BUDGET MEETINGS MOVE RIGHT ALONG -- The Coos Bay Budget Committee moved right along this week in its effort to complete review of the City's proposed \$21 million budget in four evenings. The final session is planned for next Thursday night beginning at 7:00 PM in the large conference room at the Coos Bay Public Library. City manager Bill Grile's budget messages for the City and Urban Renewal Agency budgets area available for review and download at www.coosbay.org. Both budgets are displayed there as well.

CB-NB WATER BOARD RELEASES WATER SUPPLY STATUS - General Manager Rob Schab recently announced that operation of the new Joe Ney Reservoir pumping facility along with recent precipitation has increased water storage at Upper Pony Creek Reservoir. Current milestones in filling the reservoir have been met. Water Board staff will continue to monitor reservoir levels and precipitation during the next two critical months with the goal of maintaining adequate reservoir levels into the summer season. Customers are asked to review their already wise use of water. Suggestions include:

- Check for leaks and repair leaky faucets and toilets
- Run dishwashers and washing machines only when full
- Turn off water after you wet your toothbrush or as you shave
- Install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors
- Visit WaterWiser at www.waterwiser.org for more tips on how to reduce water use

The Water Board will continue to update the community over the next several months on the status of the water supply through media releases and the display board located at the Water Board's offices at 2305 Ocean Boulevard, Coos Bay. For more information, contact the Coos Bay - North Bend Water Board at 267-3128.

OUTDOOR BURNING - Nice spring days means it time to get that yard back in shape! Residential burning is allowed within the city limits of Coos Bay without a written permit as long as city burning regulations are followed. Commercial and land clearing is regulated by the Department of Environmental Quality and must have a permit prior to the burn. For a copy of the burning regulations please call the Coos Bay Fire Department at 269-1191.

EAGLES HOLD ANNUAL BANQUET - The Coos Bay Aerie No. 538 Fraternal Order of Eagles held their annual Al Eckes Memorial Firefighters and Law Enforcement Officers Banquet this past Saturday evening. The annual banquet recognizes fire and law enforcement members from around the county. Following dinner, awards were given out to outstanding members of each department for their dedicated service to our community.

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF CHOSHI BRIDGE - The city received a report this week from Wood Composites Engineering indicating that because of dry rot Choshi Bridge had deteriorated to the point that it was no longer safe for pedestrian traffic. Community Services Director Shanda Shribbs acted Wednesday afternoon to have Parks Division personnel temporarily board up the entrances to the bridge to protect the safety of the citizens of Coos Bay. The engineering firm provided the city with recommendations for

temporary shoring up of the bridge, and Community Services will move forward to have those repairs designed and completed, if funds are available within the Parks budget. Once the bridge has reopened, the city will begin a more intensive process of determining the final remedy for the situation. If you have any questions, please contact Community Services at 269-8918.

CITY MANAGER AVAILS HIMSELF TO WEEKLY NEWSTALK RADIO PROGRAM -- City manager Bill Grile has accepted an invitation to appear weekly on Northwest Broadcasters' News-talk Radio for a call-in show airing at 1340 on the AM dial each Thursday morning at 8:00 AM. "I appreciate the opportunity to join talk show host John Fus on Thursday mornings and have enjoyed the opportunity to field any and all questions thrown at me," said Grile following yesterday morning's broadcast. Questions presented to date have ranged from garbage services and economic development to consolidation of the cities and Coos Bay's budget.

URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS CONTINUE - Several projects are continuing in downtown Coos Bay, with the usual quirks we've all come to know when we do remodeling in our own homes. The Sportman Plaza is now formed. The "surprise" underground storage tank proved to be just a minor irritation - it was determined no oil was present. Additional costs will be incurred because of wall conditions being different than was anticipated, but overall it is looking fabulous. An eight to ten-inch concrete street was found under the sidewalk on Bayshore behind the Theater district. New plans were quickly designed to continue to provide the conduit necessary for electricity to the period lights without the cost of trying to jack hammer through the concrete. The North Bayshore project is nearing completion with trees and flowers being placed this week. Grass is coming in next.

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS - Representatives from Operations Management International and the Coos Bay Community Services Department met with other area wastewater professionals on April 25th to explore the feasibility of a regional biosolids center. The event was hosted by Charleston Sanitary District to gather ideas, seek interest levels and find partners among area municipalities, private wastewater handlers, and governmental regulators. The generation and disposal of sludge, septage, and organic wastes is a common problem for many communities surrounding Coos Bay. A common solution is the goal of a study spearheaded by the Charleston Sanitary District and funded by the CCD Regional Investment program.

"WE PINE FOR MURDER..." - Coos Bay Library hosts a program by Andrew Giarelli on Saturday, April 28th at 1:00 p.m. called "We Pine For Murder - These Fistfights Are Of No Consequence To Anybody: Mark Twain, Folklore, and Far West Journalism." The free program is the last in the library's Chautauqua series funded by Oregon Council for the Humanities. Giarelli wades through the outlandish reportage of Twain and his contemporaries, examining how 19th century Western newspaper humorists used tall tales, pseudo-hoaxes and legendary characters to provide the public with the sensationalism it pretended it didn't really want. Giarelli is a former journalist himself who now teaches English at Portland State University.

LIBRARY LAUNCHES SPANISH LANGUAGE STORY TIME - The first story time in Spanish will take place in the library children's department on Monday, May 7th at 10:00 am. This will be the first of a series on monthly programs with stories told in Spanish and in English by community volunteers, followed by a craft activity. Children of all ages, both Hispanic and non-Hispanic, are welcome. If there is interest, the program will be offered more frequently. The library thanks Alva Trail, college Spanish language instructor, Bill Weaver, Spanish/French teacher at Marshfield High School, and Rochelle Wiese, ESL teacher with Coos Bay schools, for their assistance in development and presentation of this program.

COMPUTER CLASSES CONTINUE AT THE LIBRARY - Sessions offering an overview of Internet search engines will be offered by Coos Bay Library reference librarians on May 1st 5:30 p.m. and again May 17th and 31st, both at noon. The hour-long sessions will be held in the library's Myrtlewood Room. The

purpose of the sessions is to help library users take advantage of library computer resources and to attain technological literacy.

BOARD OF FORESTRY HONORS FIVE OPERATORS OF THE YEAR - Five logging operators have earned awards for outstanding forest resource protection from the Board of Forestry. The annual Operator of the Year awards honor regional winners who have consistently exceeded the Oregon Forest Practices Act and forest practices rules for road building, logging, and fish and wildlife enhancement. The awards were presented at the April 19th Board of Forestry meeting.

Larry Heesacker, owner of A-1 Logging Inc., and Enoch Skirvin and Sons Logging were the two award winners representing the Northwest Oregon region. Brownson Logging Company Inc. won the Southwest Oregon Operator of the Year Award. In the Eastern Oregon region, Operator of the Year awards went to Hanel Development Group LLC and T.A. Lawson and Sons Logging. Selection criteria for the award include consistency of performance, relative difficulty of the operation, concern shown by the operator, and innovations or extra effort used by the operator in doing the job.

The 2000 Operators of the Year were nominated by Oregon Department of Forestry forest practices foresters and then evaluated on-site by members of the three regional forest practices committees. The regional committees then recommend winners for the board's awards. These are citizen's awards and are given based on the Department of Forestry's three forest practices regions: northwest, eastern and southwest Oregon.

Larry Heesacker of Yamhill received the award for his consistent, outstanding work protecting streams while logging on non-industrial private lands. In one operation, he encouraged the landowner to voluntarily leave stream buffers on small non-fish bearing streams. Enoch Skirvin and Sons (ESSI) of Philomath were selected for their work on industrial forestland (mainly Willamette Industries Inc.) and the stream enhancement projects done during harvesting. ESSI was also recognized for its efforts to attend all available forest practices workshops and training.

Mike and Gary Brownson of Brownson Logging Company in Myrtle Creek were chosen for their exceptional and innovative work in steep terrain near streams. They make an extra effort when working in riparian management areas. Brownson Logging also received the 1997 Operator of the Year Award.

Darren McCafferty and Dave Borton of the Hanel Development Group of Hood River were recognized for their outstanding work in forest road construction including bridges and culverts planned with exceptional resource protection in mind. Hanel works closely with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife on resolving concerns related to roads. The other winner in the eastern Oregon region was Richard Lawson of T.A. Lawson and Sons Logging of Lakeview. Lawson was selected because of their high-quality work in complex harvest operations, meeting the needs of landowners and agencies while working near fish-bearing streams and significant wetlands.

Awards of merit were also given to five other operators for their exceptional work. Those included the Lulay Timber Company of Scio, Western Helicopter of Newberg, Timber Resource Management Inc. of Portland, Olympic Resources Management Inc. of Mapleton, and Roseburg Forest Products-Woods Operations in Roseburg. Letters of Commendation were also presented to nearly 50 operators in all three regions for their extra concern regarding environmental protection on specific operations in 2000.

The Forest Operator Recognition Program is a way to publicly acknowledge those who practice good stewardship and to encourage excellence in forest operations. For more information, check out the Oregon Department of Forestry web site for the forest practices program at <http://www.odf.state.or.us/FP/DEFAULT.HTM> <<http://www.odf.state.or.us/FP/DEFAULT.HTM>>

BAY AREA JAYCEES - The Bay Area Jaycees recently returned from State Convention in Salem where they were honored with a first place award as the top Chapter in the State of Oregon for the first quarter. Oregon State Jaycees are No. 3 in the nation. Police Department Clerical Specialist Melanie Johnston received the Local Board Member award for the quarter. Congratulations Melanie and Bay Area Jaycees!